

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following list of claims will replace all prior lists and versions of claims in this application:

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Amended) A method of manufacturing an item using an assembly line having a plurality of operators wherein said item incorporates at least one component from each of a plurality of said operators, comprising:

identifying to a computer system a first portion of said item by automatically reading a first information tag associated with said first portion;

automatically determining the location of said first portion;

recording said location of said first portion in said computer system;

automatically identifying to said computer system at least one component to be added to said first portion;

automatically reading a second information tag ~~associated with~~ accompanying said component, said component and said first portion being separately tagged;

transmitting information from said second tag to said computer;

incorporating said component into said item;

identifying to said computer system that said component has been incorporated into said item;

and

displaying information corresponding to said identification ~~to at least one operator~~.

9. (Amended) The method of ~~claim~~ claim 8 wherein said item comprises a portion of a vehicle.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of:
remotely locating components from said assembly line;

automatically determining when said components are required by said manufacturing process;
and

automatically notifying a supplier that said components are required to be supplied to a
manufacturing line.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the step of ~~notifying operators~~ displaying
information corresponding to said identification comprises ~~providing a graphical display~~ displaying
said information on a graphical display accessible to an operator.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
creating a graphical representation of the status of an assembly line;
displaying an icon on said graphical display representing the status of one first portion.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said icon represents the location of said first
portion on said manufacturing line.

14. (New) A method of manufacturing an item using an assembly line, comprising:
identifying to a computer system a first portion of said item by reading a first information tag
accompanying said first portion;
automatically determining the location of said first portion;
recording said location of said first portion in said computer system;
automatically identifying to said computer system at least one component to be added to said
item;
reading a second information tag accompanying said component;
transmitting information from said second tag to said computer;
incorporating said component into said item;
identifying to said computer system that said component has been incorporated into said item;
and

updating a database to indicate a status of said item after said component has been incorporated into said item.

15. (New) The method of claim 14 wherein said item comprises a portion of a vehicle.
16. (New) The method of claim 14 further comprising the steps of:
remotely locating components from said assembly line;
automatically determining when said components are required by said manufacturing process;
and
automatically notifying a supplier that said components are required to be supplied to a manufacturing line.
17. (New) The method of claim 16, further comprising:
creating a graphical representation of the status of an assembly line; and
displaying information on said graphical display representing the status of one first portion.
18. (New) The method of claim 17 wherein said information comprises an icon representing the location of said first portion on said manufacturing line.
19. A computer-based system for controlling the manufacture of an item using an assembly line, comprising:
a processing system; and
memory coupled to the processing system,
wherein the processing system is configured to:
receive information comprising the identification of a first portion of said item from a tag reader adapted to read a first information tag accompanying said first portion;
automatically determining the location of said first portion;
record said location of said first portion;

automatically identify at least one component to be added to said item;
receive information regarding said component from a tag reader adapted to read a second information tag accompanying said component; and
update a database to indicate a status of said item after said component has been incorporated into said item.

20. (New) The computer-based system of claim 19 wherein said item comprises a portion of a vehicle.

21. (New) The computer-based system of claim 19, wherein the processing system is configured to:

remotely locate components from said assembly line;
automatically determine when said components are required by said manufacturing process;
and
automatically notify a supplier that said components are required to be supplied to a manufacturing line.

22. (New) The computer-based system of claim 21, wherein the processing system is configured to:

create a graphical representation of the status of an assembly line; and
display information on said graphical display representing the status of one first portion.

23. (New) The computer-based sys of claim 22 wherein said information comprises an icon representing the location of said first portion on said manufacturing line.